

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Prior to the present response, claims 1-13 were pending. With the above changes, independent claim 1 is amended, and claim 11 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 12 and 13 currently are pending.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the photographs of Figures 1-3 for appearing sketchy or unclear. In response, Applicants attach three replacement sheets including Figures 1-3. In the replacement figures, arrowed explanations have been added as suggested by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that these drawing changes fully address the Examiner's concerns.

Also submitted herewith is a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 in which Shozo Katsuki, an inventor of the present application, declares unequivocally that any inventions disclosed but not claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,838,184 (hereinafter, the "the '184 patent"), Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0118438 (hereinafter, "the '438 application"), and Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0049487 (hereinafter, "the '487 application") were derived from him, and thus do not constitute inventions by another. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on the '184 patent and the '438 and '487 applications are overcome.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,251,507). However, claim 1 is amended to incorporate all the features of now canceled claim 11. This rejection, therefore, is overcome, as the Yamamoto et al. patent fails to teach or suggest a copper-clad laminate including, among other claimed features, an electrolytically plated copper film placed on at least one surface side of a polyimide film, in which the electrolytically plated copper film has 1 to 200 protrusions having a diameter of 15 μm or more per 1 mm^2 on a surface thereof not facing the polyimide film.

Claims 2-10, 12 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least for the above reasons, and further for the additional features recited. Because the distinctions pointed out above with respect to the independent claim are clear, Applicants will not belabor a detailed discussion of separately patentable subject matter recited in each and every dependent claim at this time. However, Applicants respectfully submit that further

distinctions exist.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the rejections of the claims have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of the same is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,


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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto are three replacement drawing sheets, each labeled "Replacement Sheet." These replacement sheets, which contain Figures 1-3, replace the originally filed drawing sheets containing Figures 1-3.

Attachments: 3 "Replacement Sheets"